Therefore, if any mistake is committed by the clerk before any final order is passed the mistake would certainly be detected. These arguments do not carry any weight. The question of retaining a certain clerk in the same position or of his transfer need not be subjected to hard and fast rules. It may sometimes be necessary to allow a particular clerk to continue in a particular place on account of his great experience in that section. Therefore from the point of view of speed and efficiency in the disposal of files this will have to be done. But this is not being followed in the Secretariat as a principle or practice and the clerks are very oftern transferred from one section to another. These are matters which are decided by the authorities according to administrative exigencies. I hope the honourable member will not press his motion.

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY: Sir, in view of the explanations of the Chief Secretary to Government, though not satisfactory, I don't press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions Nos. 356 to 363.

The following motions were not moved being inadmissible.

MR. JOTEPH VITHAYATHIL:

356. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 84,436 for Higher Grade Clerks by Re. 1.

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR:

357. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 84,436 for Higher Grade Clerks by Re. 1

MR. M. G. MATTHEW:

358. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 84,436 for Higher Grade Clerks by Re. 1

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU:

35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,753 for Lower Grade Clerks by Re. 1

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI:

360 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,753 for Lower Grade Clerks by Re. 1

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Allowances.

MR. KANNARA GOPALA PANICKAR:

361. To Reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,180 for travelling allowances by Re. 1

MR. M. G. MATTHEW:

362. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,180 for travelling allowances by Re. 1

MR. T. M. VARGHESE:

363. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,180 for travelling allowances by Re. 5

Motion No. 364.

PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. T. M. Varghese to speak on motion No. 364.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: Sir, may I know how motion No. 358 is out of order.

PRESIDENT: I have already ruled that general questions of policy cannot be discussed on the reduction of a specific item in the budget.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: Sir, what about motion No. 362.

PRESIDENT: That deals with a general question of policy.

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MR. T. M. VARGHESE: Sir, I don't move my motion.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. T. M. VARGHESE:

364. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for Private Secretary's Office contingencies by Rs. 1,500.

Motion No. 365.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,55,925 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1 to discuss the way in which civil liberties are curtailed by Government. Sir, I need not expatiate upon the importance of recognising the civil liberties of the people. Now, Travancore has for long enjoyed civil liberty to a large extent and the restraint on civil liberty was a thing practically unknown in the State for a very long period. But latterly that state of affairs has unfortunately changed. And the people now feel that their civil liberties are curtailed in a manner which can by no means be justified.

Sir, I shall refer firstly to the curtailment of the freedom of opinion in the State at present. I shall begin by referring to the debate that we had yesterday on the floor of this House when the Legal Remembrancer told us that certain papers are preferred and certain others are excluded at the instance of the courts in the matter of giving advertisements and other court notifications. And that Government have discriminated those papers which do not support the views and actions of Government. Now, Sir, what are the implications of that attitude of Government.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, on a point of order. The publications of advertisements in newspapers was a matter which was considered and decided by this House. So, is it open to the honourable member to criticise and discuss it again?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Sir, I am not discussing it in the light in which it was discussed last day. I am referring it to show that the attitude of the Government in that regard really implicates something.....

PRESIDENT: In regard to the attitude of the Government which was expressed in the House.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Yes, Sir. When the Government expressly take up the attitude in respect of some papers and ban them like this, I say, Sir, that it amounts to supression of the freedon of opinion. That was not discussed yesterday at all. Certain papers are always kept by Government on fear of consequence for their own propaganda and such papers will be very willing to ventilate their views if their hands were free. Sir, there is law to bind a newspaper whenever it goes wrong. But not to take action against such papers but at the same time make it not to secure publication if the views expressed by the paper are not to the liking of the Government that certainly is a most insinuous way of suppressing public opinion. I refer this to show that the Government are gagging journalism at the present time. Then again,

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newspapers are now being dealt with much more harshly than at any time in the past. Now if we consider the number of warning and notices issued to newspapers it far exceeds anything of the kind that has happened in former times. Then as regards actual suppression of newspapers, I may say that under the Regulation recently more than one paper has been suppressed for expressing views that are not acceptable to the Government.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: May I know to which paper the member refers?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: I may refer to the paper known as Koumudi which was suppressed recently. It appears that that paper published something which were already published by another paper on a former occassion.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: By the same paper.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: It was published formerly in the Kerala Koumudi. Then no objection was taken up by the Government. Subsequently when the same article was republished by Koumudi, Government took objection and as a result of this the paper was suppressed. That, Sir, I condemn. It is not due to the fact that the Government suspected the *bona fide* of a paper that it is suppressed but because Government do not like the way in which the particular paper conducts itself. Sir, the consequeuce of that attitude taken by the Government is clear. There is a great feeling in the country.....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will have 3 minutes more. The House will now adjourn to meet again tomorrow at 11.

The House adjourned at 5 p. m.

Trivandrum,
3rd August 1938.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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